

### NURSING ECHOES.

Her Royal Highness the Princess Elizabeth has recently passed her seventeenth birthday, and is now in the fateful year before legally coming of age, as she will do when eighteen.

The portrait on this page, in which the Princess is wearing Sea Rangers uniform, presents a very intelligent type of royal beauty which augurs well for the exercise of royal responsibility which she may be called upon to assume, let us hope, in the far future.

Brought up as she has been, the Princess no doubt realises that Kingship is inspired by love of country and a never-failing sense of national duty.

The Army Nursing Services, Q.A.I.M.N.S. and the T.A.N.S., now hold commissioned rank in the Women's Forces. These ranks range from Sister to Matron-in-Chief, equivalent to the ranks Lieutenant to Brigadier, and they are normally addressed by their rank, Matron, Sister, etc.

The term "Nursing Officer" is only intended to be used under the same circumstances as medical officer, dental officer, educational officer or engineer officer.

Soon we may see our nursing officers in khaki—now they have military rank. It is suggested that their uniform should correspond with that of the Regular Army. We are all so used to the grey and scarlet of our highly-honoured military nursing service that it will be a wrench to part with it.

Had Parliament done its duty of recent years, which it has not done, and raised the standard of education for the young people whose parents were unable to pay for it, there would by now have been an ample supply of well-educated girls able to pass the necessary standards for the profession of Nursing, and no necessity for creating two classes of nurses to vie with each other on unequal

economic terms. We are glad, therefore, to note that the President of the National Union of Teachers, Mr. Ronald Gould, claimed in a recent presidential address that a national system of education should be established giving equality of opportunity—a class-less system that would give parity of conditions in every type of school.

So far justice, but even family endowment, free school meals, and free education will not produce equality. Ethical standards, good manners, self-denial,

and reverence for the things which individual talent can alone produce must be inculcated in the young if they are to be worthy of culture. At all costs let us preserve individuality. As we knew it in youth our village was a bracing place—every person in it, man, woman and child, a character. We must preserve individuality or, indeed, our environment will surely produce peas in a pod. Most uninspiring.

After the terrible loss of economic security, which is now inevitable in what we hesitate to call a profession, every encouragement must be given for young nurses to study civics, of which the majority are totally ignorant. We were interested to note that recently a dozen senior pupils from Croydon High School for Girls filed into the public seats at Croydon police-court in the charge of a mistress.

The school curriculum includes "Civics"—the study of administration of public

affairs—and this visit was made to see how justice is dispensed.

The girls saw that nowadays their sex is well represented in the police-court, for there were a woman magistrate, a woman probation officer, two police-women, the police matron, and three girl reporters.

We learn that many Matrons and Sisters in the Royal Naval, Military, and Air Force Nursing Services realise the inevitable demoralisation of nursing, by the recognition of untrained Assistant Nurses by Act of Parliament, and are congratulating themselves that for the



Photo : ]

[Dorothy Wilding.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS ELIZABETH  
IN SEA RANGER UNIFORM.

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